WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Agenda for Development of North-Eastern Region

2120. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

(a) the major agenda for Development of North-Eastern Region;

(b) the short-term and long-term strategies;

(c) whether Government are aware that funds allocated for specific projects in many States of North-Eastern Region are either diverted or unutilised;

(d) if so, whether Government are planning to tackle the situation; and

(e) whether Government have any agency to monitor utilisation of fund released for specific projects particularly of the fund allocated from non-lapsable pool ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The major agenda for development of North-East Region has been set out in the Agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North-Eastern States and Sikkim announced by the Prime Minister in 2000, under which a Rs. 13390 crore package of 28 development schemes has been taken up.

(b) The short term strategies include timely implementation of the Agenda for Socio-Economic Development, ensuring better utilization of funds, completion of incomplete works, expediting clearance for projects in the North-East and assisting in resolving policy issues affecting development of the region.

The long-term strategy is to evolve a common approach for all the Central agencies engaged in development of the region, to focus the efforts of the agencies of Central and State Governments towards working together for development, including increasing opportunities for productive employment, strengthening infrastructure, particularly connectivity and communications, increasing transparency and accountability in the implementation of projects.

(c) There are certain cases where funds have been diverted or underutilzed, as indicated in the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

(d) Government is tackling the situation by adopting the following measures :—

(i) Funds are being released to the specific Projects only after receipt of Utilization Certificates.

(ii) Concurrent Audit of major projects is being proposed.

(iii) The frequency of site inspections of specific projects by the officers of the Central Government is being enhanced.

(iv) Steps are being taken to increase transparency and to publicize the projects being funded under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

(e) Utilisation of funds released for specific projects under the Non-Lapsable Pool of Central Resources are being closely monitored by this Department, as also by other agencies of the Central Government and concerned State Governments.

Accruals and expenditure from non-lapsable pool

2121. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of accruals and expenditure from the non-lapsable pool during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of projects sanctioned and funds released during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether the States encountered any difficulties in getting funds for sanctioned projects under non-lapsable pool during the year 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE : (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) So far (as on 16-10-2001) an amount of Rs. 1043.45 crores has been